



# Maryland Agriculture Data

## Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0303

APRIL 21, 2003

### WARM WEATHER INCREASES PLANTINGS

Last week warm spring weather covered the area and allowed farmers to work in their fields in preparation for planting. Cooler, wet weather delayed some activities toward the end of last week. **Topsoil moisture** is 53 percent adequate and 47 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** is 78 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus. The soil, with a statewide average temperature of 48 degrees, is beginning to dry out but the cool weather is delaying planting. **Days suitable for field work** was 3.8 for the week ending April 20th. Small amounts of corn, snap beans, tomatoes, and cantaloupes have been planted.

Fruit crops are behind in bloom by a week but are starting to progress with peaches at 48 percent, apples at 30 percent, and strawberries at 38 percent. The late bloom will hopefully protect crops against frost or freeze damage.

Small grains are receiving herbicide and fertilizer applications and their condition is fair to good with **winter wheat** at 5 percent excellent, 37 percent good, 41 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 6 percent very poor. **Barley** condition is 5 percent excellent, 33 percent good, 48 percent fair, 11 percent poor, and 3 percent very poor.

**Hay supplies** are 37 percent adequate, 40 percent short, and 23 percent very short. **Pasture** condition is 9 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 28 percent fair, 10 percent poor and 1 percent very poor.

### MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1998-2002
Planting Progress:				
Potatoes	30	20	55	71
Green Peas	60	58	80	69
Sweet Corn	11	7	22	18
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	30	9	37	39
Peaches	48	30	86	72
Strawberries	38	27	45	40

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 20, 2003 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	-	-	53	47
Topsoil (2002)	3	37	60	-
Subsoil Moisture	-	-	78	22
Subsoil (2002)	29	49	21	1

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